

**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**ANIMAL HEALTH BRANCH**  
**PROPOSED REGULATIONS – OVINE BRUCELLOSIS**

The Department of Food and Agriculture, Animal Health Branch, is proposing the following changes to Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:

**1) Amend section 760.4 of Article 3, Chapter 2, Division 2, of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:**

Section 760.4. Ovine Brucellosis -- Requirements for Entry of Rams into California.

(a) Rams six (6) months of age and over shall have all of the following:

(1) Individual identification with an official eartag or registration tattoo if accompanied by registration papers;

(2) A negative official test for ~~Brucella ovis~~ Brucella ovis within 60 days before entry into California or be from a ~~Brucella ovis~~ Brucella ovis free flock. The individual identification of the ram tested must be recorded and accompany the sample to the laboratory.

(A) Rams may be ~~except~~ exempt from the ~~Brucella ovis~~ Brucella ovis test requirement when:

~~(A)~~ 1. Moved for grazing purposes, without change of ownership, or

~~(B)~~ 2. Entered in a show or sale outside of California where ownership changes and the ram is returning to California. ~~Any ram used for breeding prior to returning to California must comply with the testing requirements as specified in (a)(2) of this section.~~

(B) Any ram with a positive test result will not be allowed entry into California until retested negative 30-60 days after the initial positive test.

(3) A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection as specified by this article, with official identification, test results, name of the approved laboratory, date of the test, or the "~~Brucella ovis~~ Brucella ovis free flock number" must be recorded on the form.

(b) Any ram six (6) months of age and older originating from a flock in which *Brucella ovis* has been diagnosed within the past 12 months shall have either:

(1) A negative official *Brucella ovis* test conducted within 60 days prior to entry, and upon arrival, isolation from the breeding flock until retested negative within 45-120 days of the initial pre-entry test; or

(2) Two (2) consecutive negative official *Brucella ovis* tests conducted 45-120 days apart with the last test conducted within 60 days prior to entry.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 407, Food and Agricultural Code. Reference: Sections 9561, 9562, 9570 and 9574, Food and Agricultural Code.

**2) Amend the heading of Article 3.5, Chapter 2, Division 2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:**

Article 3.5. ~~Restrictions on Movement of Sheep Within California~~ *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification

**3) Adopt section 765 under Article 3.5, Chapter 2, Division 2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, to read as follows:**

Section 765. ~~Scrapie Disease of Sheep Regulation~~ *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification Requirements.

(a) Definitions are incorporated by reference from section 760(a)(1) through (27) of Article 3 of Chapter 2, Division 2, of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations.

(b) Any person interested in obtaining *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification in California, should contact their local Animal Health Branch District Office of the Department.

(c) A flock of sheep may qualify as a *Brucella ovis* Free Flock when all rams six (6) months of age and older have completed two (2) negative *Brucella ovis* tests 45-120 days apart.

(d) The Department will provide written verification to the owner of the flock recognizing the flock as a *Brucella ovis* free flock upon receipt of all completed test results, as required by this section, from the veterinarian or the laboratory where the testing was performed. The written verification will include, at a minimum, a statement that the flock is certified in California as a *Brucella ovis* Free Flock, and the date of certification.

(e) Approved *Brucella ovis* Tests.

(1) *Brucella ovis* testing must be performed in a laboratory approved by the Department.

(2) Samples must be taken and sent to an approved laboratory by a California state licensed and USDA accredited veterinarian.

(3) Tests used for *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification must be approved by the Department or the USDA.

(f) *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification will be valid for one year. For continuous *Brucella ovis* Free Flock Certification status:

(1) All rams six (6) months of age and older must have one negative *Brucella ovis* test within 9-15 months of the last certification date, and

(2) Any ram introduced into the flock must be from a *Brucella ovis* Certified Free Flock, or be held in isolation until the completion of two (2) negative *Brucella ovis* tests conducted 45-120 days apart.

(3) A flock that loses certified-free flock status may be recertified by repeating the certification process.

(g) Positive *Brucella ovis* Tests.

(1) Any ram with a positive test result shall be held in isolation and retested 30-60 days after the initial positive test, or removed from the flock.

(2) A loss of certified free status will result when a positive ram has not been held in isolation. A flock that loses certified-free flock status may be recertified by repeating the certification process.

NOTE: Authority cited: Section 407, Food and Agricultural Code. Reference: Sections 9561, 9562, 9570 and 9574, Food and Agricultural Code.

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